

Applicants : Tadashi FUKUMOTO et al
 Title : BREAKWATER GENERATING STRUCTURE
 Serial No. : 09/863 749 Group: 3673
 Confirmation No.: 9164
 Filed : May 23, 2001 Examiner: Saldano
 Atty. Docket No.: Ishii Case 16

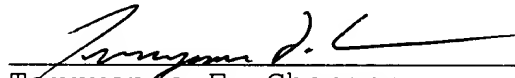


Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FIRST CLASS MAILING CERTIFICATE

Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR 1.8 as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 6, 2005.


 Terryence F. Chapman

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Correspondence: Response to Notice of Non-Compliance
 dated January 6, 2005
 including enclosures listed thereon

190.05/03



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

January 6, 2005

Applicants: Tadashi FUKUMOTO et al

For: BREAKWATER GENERATING STRUCTURE

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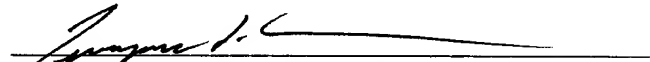
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANCE

Sir:

In response to the Notification of Non-Compliance dated December 14, 2004, Appellants are submitting a Supplemental Appellants' Brief on Appeal which complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 41.37(c). If there are any other matters that are left to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


Terryence F. Chapman

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	Donald J. Wallace	Reg. No. 43 977
	Sidney B. Williams, Jr.	Reg. No. 24 949

Encl: Supplemental Appellants' Brief on Appeal (in triplicate)
including enclosures listed thereon

110.0703



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

January 6, 2005

Applicants: Tadashi FUKUMOTO et al

For: BREAKWATER GENERATING STRUCTURE

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Atty. Docket No.: Ishii Case 16

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P.O. Box 1450

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SUPPLEMENTAL APPELLANTS' BRIEF ON APPEAL

Sir:

This is an appeal from the Office Action dated May 18, 2004 finally rejecting Claims 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 24.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Nishimatsu Construction Co., Ltd. is the assignee of the present application and the real party in interest.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no known related appeals and interferences to the present application.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 6, 7, 12-18 and 21-26 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-5, 8-11, 19 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 6, 7, 12, 22, 25 and 26 have been allowed. Claims 13, 15, 16, 18, 21, 23 and 24 have been rejected. Claims 14 and 17 have been objected to.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment After Final Rejection addressing "claim objections" accompanies the filing of this Appeal Brief.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

Appellants' invention, as defined by Claim 13, is directed to submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side. The vertical wall has at least one opening at a lower end thereof and the breakwater generating structure also comprises slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate disposed at the top portion of the box. The slits define openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between the vertical wall and a second vertical wall of the open box (page 7 of the clean copy of the substitute specification, lines 17-29 and Figure 2).

Claim 15 limits Claim 13 in requiring that at least one hole be formed at the bottom of the box (Figure 2).

Appellants' invention, as defined in independent Claim 16, is directed to a submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side, the vertical wall having at least one opening at a lower end thereof. The breakwater generating structure has slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate disposed at the top portion of the box. The slits define openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between the vertical wall and a second vertical wall of the open box and the box is formed as two stages and placed on a mound (specification page 8, lines 30-33, specification page 9, lines 1-3 and Figure 4).

Claim 18 limits Claim 16 in requiring that a through-path be provided from said box to a coastal side of the breakwater generating structure (specification page 13, lines 10-16).

Claim 21 limits Claim 13 in requiring that the height of a coastal side wall of the box is higher than a height of the vertical wall and positions of the slits are arranged to become higher toward the coast (specification page 11, lines 12-16).

Appellants' invention, as defined in independent Claim 23, is directed to a method of attenuating waves with a submerged breakwater generating structure in which the improvement comprises bringing the waves into contact with a submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side. The vertical wall has at least one opening at a lower end and slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate disposed at the top portion of the box. The slits define openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between the vertical wall and a second vertical wall of the open box (specification page 7, lines 17-29 and Figure 2).

Appellants' invention, as defined by independent Claim 24, is directed to a method of attenuating waves with a submerged breakwater generating structure in which the improvement comprises bringing the waves into contact with a submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side. The vertical wall has at least one opening at a lower end thereof and slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate are disposed at the top portion of the box. The slits define openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between the vertical wall and a second vertical wall of the open box and the box is formed as two stages and placed on a mound (specification page 8, lines 30-33, specification page 9, lines 1-3 and Figure 4).

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The first ground of rejection presented for review is the rejection of Claims 13, 15 and 21 under 35 USC 102(b) in view of JP 55-110520. The second ground of rejection presented for review is the rejection of Claims 16, 18, 23 and 24 under 35 USC 103(a) over JP 55-110520.

ARGUMENT

The presently claimed invention is directed to a submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side. The vertical wall has at least one opening at a lower end thereof and slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate are disposed at the top portion of the box. The slits define openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between the vertical wall and a second vertical wall of the open box. The box can be formed as two stages and placed on a mound.

The present invention is also directed to a method of attenuating waves with a submerged breakwater generating structure in which the improvement comprises bringing the waves into contact with a submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side, the vertical wall having at least one opening at a lower end and slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate disposed at the top portion of the box. The slits define openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between the vertical wall and a second vertical wall of the open box.

In its broadest form, the present invention is directed to a submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side, the vertical wall having at least one opening at a lower end and inclined slits with respect to the direction along which waves propagate are disposed at the top portion of the box. The slits define openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between the vertical wall and a second vertical wall of the open box.

As discussed previously, the submerged breakwater generating structure of the present invention is smaller than conventional breakwater generating structures, can be constructed at a lower cost and higher efficiency and yet still possesses a high breakwater efficiency. In the claimed

invention, wave energy is reduced by the submerged structure through the production of a breaking wave which is introduced into slanted grids and returned offshore from an opening. The breaking waves are caused by a sudden change of the depth of the seawater.

In the claimed invention, the submerged breakwater generating structure has a plurality of slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate disposed at a top portion thereof and a vertical wall having at least one opening at a lower end thereof which produces a breakwater at an offshore side, with the slits defining openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between the vertical wall and a second vertical wall of the open box. The breakwater generating structure can be provided in two stages and placed on a mound. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art cited by the Examiner does not disclose the presently claimed invention.

JP '520 discloses a breakwater unit 2 which is placed on a sea bed side by side. A part of the breakwater unit 2 is erected above the seawater surface and comprises a box 1 having sloped side walls 4 at each side of the box 1 and openings 3 at its front and rear end to form passages 3 for allowing the seawater to pass back and forth from the offshore side to the shore side. Concrete plates 5 having a hole 5a are placed on the side walls 4 to form a sloped surface 6 and slits 7. The lower end of the unit is directed to the offshore side. The wave reaches the sloped surface 6 and travels up and dissipates its power by the slits and projections on the surface. The seawater passes through the passages 3 and flows into the shore area.

CLAIMS 13, 15 AND 21

ARE NOT ANTICIPATED UNDER 35 USC 102(b) BY JP 55-110520

The invention claimed in Claims 13, 15 and 21 is distinguishable over JP 55-110520 in that the breakwater unit disclosed in this reference is not submerged and this

reference does not disclose a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side which has at least one opening at a lower end thereof. The openings 3 are provided in the front wall of the breakwater unit 2 of JP '520 and disposed practically throughout the whole height thereof. Therefore, this reference does not disclose a vertical wall disposed at an offshore side which has an opening provided at a lower end thereof. Additionally, the subject claims require that the slits be inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate. In contrast thereto, the slits in JP '520 are sloped with respect to a vertical direction and not a horizontal direction along which waves propagate. In JP '520, an incoming wave contacts the sloped surface 6 to cause the wave to travel up the surface and be dissipated through passing through the slits 7 and coming to the resistance provided by the projections on the sloped surface. The unobvious difference in construction between the presently claimed submerged breakwater generating structure and the breakwater unit of JP '520 is due to the present invention being designed to operate in a submerged state while the breakwater unit of JP '520 is designed to have a part of the sloped surface disposed above the seawater surface. As such, the invention of Claims 13, 15 and 21 is clearly not anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) or obvious under 35 USC 103(a) over this reference.

CLAIM 15 IS SEPARATELY PATENTABLE OVER JP 55-110520

Claim 15 is separately patentable in that it requires at least one hole be formed at the bottom of the box. JP '520 shows no such structure or equivalent structure. As such, Claim 15 is clearly separately patentable over JP '520.

CLAIMS 16, 18, 23 AND 24

ARE NOT OBVIOUS UNDER 35 USC 103(a) OVER JP 55-110520

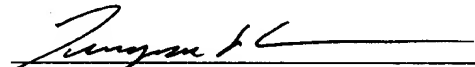
The invention claimed in Claims 16, 18, 23 and 24 is unobvious over JP 55-110520 for the same reasons recited above. That is, the breakwater unit disclosed in this reference is not submerged and this reference does not disclose a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side which has at least one opening at a lower end thereof. The openings 3 are provided in the front wall of the breakwater unit 2 of JP '520 and disposed practically throughout the whole height thereof. Therefore, this reference does not disclose a vertical wall disposed at an offshore side which has an opening provided at a lower end thereof. Additionally, Claims 16, 18, 23 and 24 require that the slits be inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate. In contrast thereto, the slits in JP '520 are sloped with respect to a vertical direction and not a horizontal direction along which waves propagate. In JP '520, an incoming wave contacts the sloped surface 6 to cause the wave to travel up the surface and be dissipated through passing through the slits 7 and coming to the resistance provided by the projections on the sloped surface. The unobvious difference in construction between the presently claimed submerged breakwater generating structure and the breakwater unit of JP '520 is due to the present invention being designed to operate in a submerged state while the breakwater unit of JP '520 is designed to have a part of the sloped surface disposed above the seawater surface. As such, Claims 16, 18, 23 and 24 are clearly patentably distinguishable over this reference.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons advanced above, it is respectfully submitted that the currently claimed invention is clearly patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner. Reversal of the Examiner's rejection of the claims is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

IN TRIPLICATE


Terryence F. Chapman

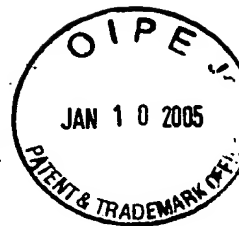
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	Sidney B. Williams, Jr.	Reg. No. 24 949

Encl: Claims Appendix
Evidence Appendix
Related Proceedings Appendix
Amendment After Final Rejection
Postal Card

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CLAIMS APPENDIX



16. A submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side, said vertical wall having at least one opening at a lower end thereof and slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate disposed at the top portion of said box, said slits defining openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between said vertical wall and a second vertical wall of said open box, said box being formed as two stages and placed on a mound.

13. A submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side, said vertical wall having at least one opening at a lower end and slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate disposed at the top portion of said box, said slits defining openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between said vertical wall and a second vertical wall of said open box.

15. The submerged breakwater generating structure according to Claim 13, wherein at least one hole is formed at the bottom of said box.

18. The submerged breakwater generating structure according to Claim 16, wherein a through path is provided from said box to a coastal side of said breakwater generating structure.

21. The submerged breakwater generating structure according to Claim 13, wherein a height of a coastal side wall of said box is higher than a height of said vertical wall and

positions of said slits are arranged to become higher toward said coast.

23. In a method of attenuating waves with a submerged breakwater generating structure, the improvement comprising bringing the waves into contact with a submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side, said vertical wall having at least one opening at a lower end and slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate disposed at the top portion of the box, said slits defining openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between said vertical wall and a second vertical wall of said open box.

24. In a method of attenuating waves with a submerged breakwater generating structure, the improvement comprising bringing the waves into contact with a submerged breakwater generating structure comprising an open box having a vertical wall for producing a breakwater at an offshore side, said vertical wall having at least one opening at a lower end thereof and slits inclined with respect to the direction along which waves propagate disposed at the top portion of said box, said slits defining openings provided in a spaced-apart relationship between said vertical wall and a second vertical wall of said open box, said box being formed as two stages and placed on a mound.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is no evidence submitted pursuant to 37 CFR §§
1.130, 1.131 or 1.132.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There are no related proceedings to the present application.